

Center for  
Health Statistics

# NEW JERSEY HEALTH STATISTICS 2003

*Center for Health Statistics*

*Office of the State  
Epidemiologist*

*New Jersey Department of  
Health and Senior Services*



**Jon S. Corzine**  
Governor



**Fred M. Jacobs, M.D., J.D.**  
Commissioner

# **NEW JERSEY HEALTH STATISTICS 2003**

**MARIA L. BARON DUFFY, M.A.S.**

**KATHERINE HEMPSTEAD, PH.D.  
DIRECTOR  
CENTER FOR HEALTH STATISTICS**

**EDDY A. BRESNITZ, M.D., M.S.  
DEPUTY COMMISSIONER/STATE EPIDEMIOLOGIST  
NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SENIOR SERVICES**

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## INTRODUCTION

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This report was prepared by the Center for Health Statistics (CHS), which is located in the Office of the State Epidemiologist of the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS). The printed report contains a small selection of New Jersey vital and health statistics for the calendar year 2003 including data on births, deaths, infant and fetal deaths, marriages, divorces, and population. The full report is available on the Internet at <http://nj.gov/health/chs/stats03/index.shtml>.

CHS staff are available to answer questions regarding the content and use of the data in this report. Data portions of this report, as well as other health-related data, are available at the DHSS Web site. Additional statistics not included in the report or on the Internet may be obtained through request to CHS. Questions or requests should be addressed to the following:

New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services

Center for Health Statistics

Room 405—PO Box 360

Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0360

e-mail: [chs@doh.state.nj.us](mailto:chs@doh.state.nj.us)

telephone: (609) 984-6702

fax: (609) 984-7633

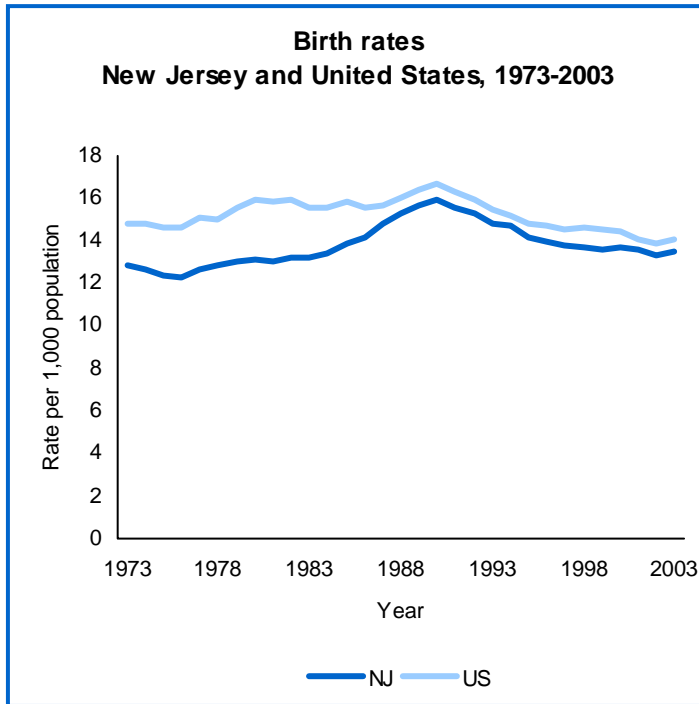
Internet: <http://nj.gov/health/chs>

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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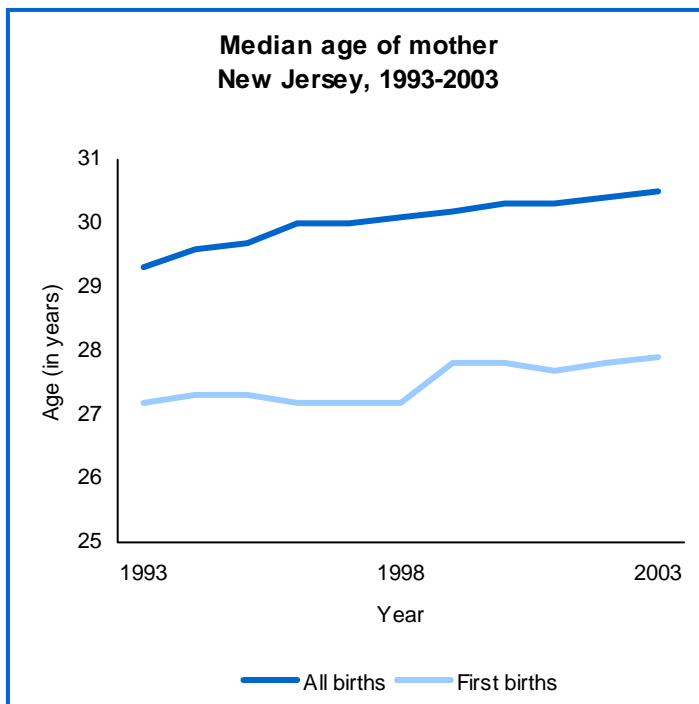
In addition to Joe Komosinski and other staff from the Office of Vital Statistics, Michael Duffy, Darrin Goldman, and Ping Shi of CHS provided data management and quality control assistance.

## BIRTHS



■ There were 116,823 births to New Jersey resident women in 2003.

■ The crude birth rate was 13.5 per 1,000 population.

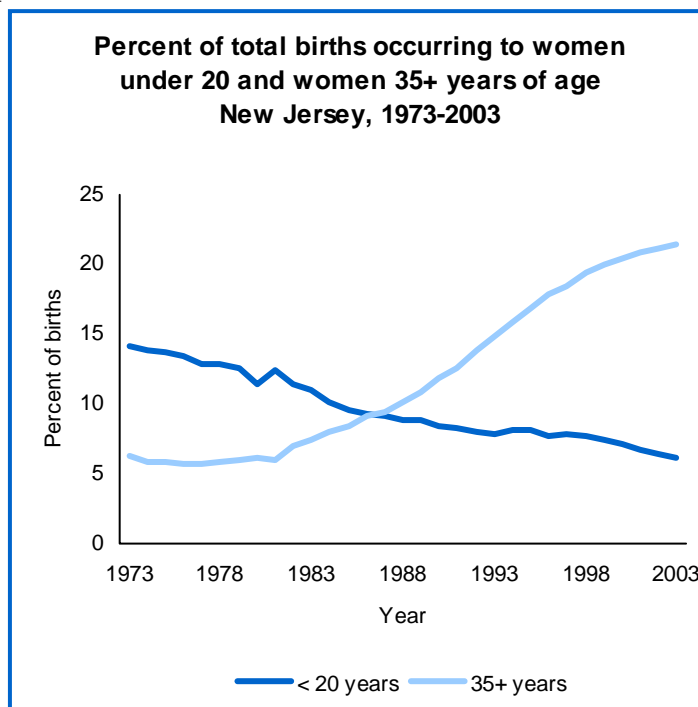


■ The median age of all mothers was 30.5 years and the median age of first-time mothers was 27.9 years.

■ There were 7,209 births to teens (6.2% of all births) and the teen birth rate was 12.3 per 1,000 females aged 10-19 years.

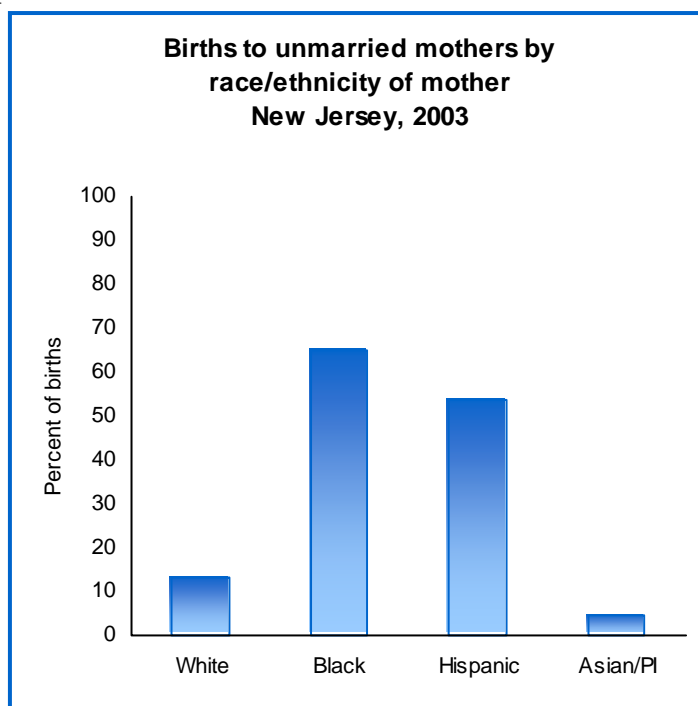
■ Births to women aged 35 years and older accounted for 21.5% of births in 2003.

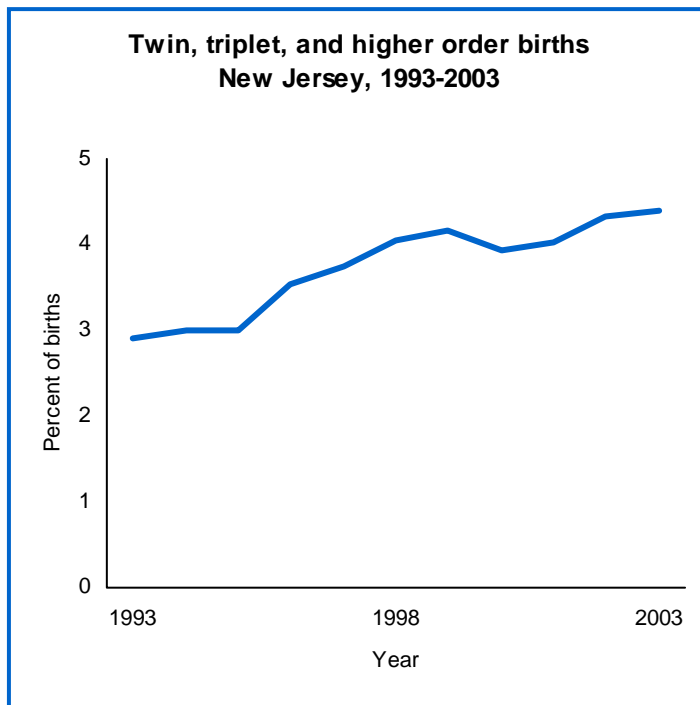
■ The birth rate was 34.8 per 1,000 women aged 35-44 years.



■ Twenty-nine percent of births were to unmarried mothers.

■ Between 1973 and 2003, the percent of births which were to unmarried women more than doubled.

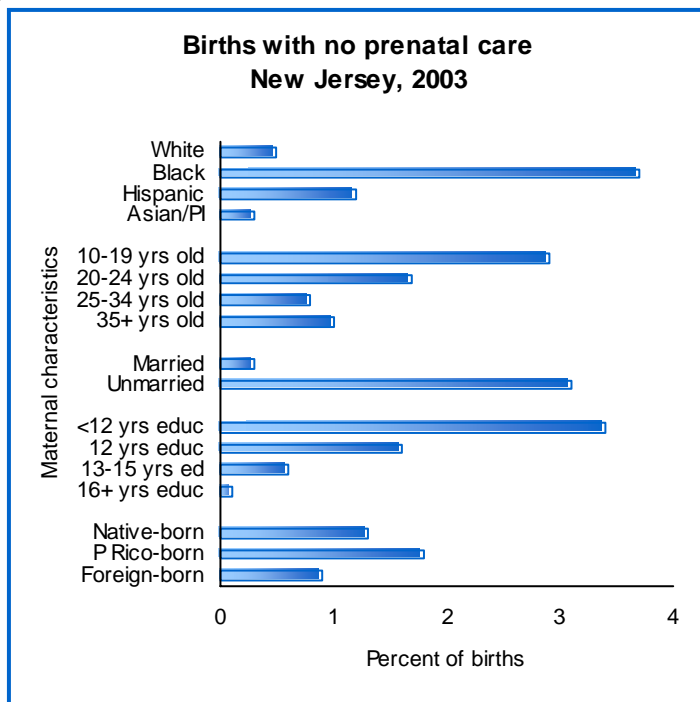




■ Births of individual twins, triplets, and quadruplets numbered 5,140 in 2003.

■ The percent of all births which were part of a twin pregnancy increased nearly 50% from 1993 to 2003, the percent which were part of a triplet pregnancy increased 82%, and the percent which were quadruplets or higher order doubled.

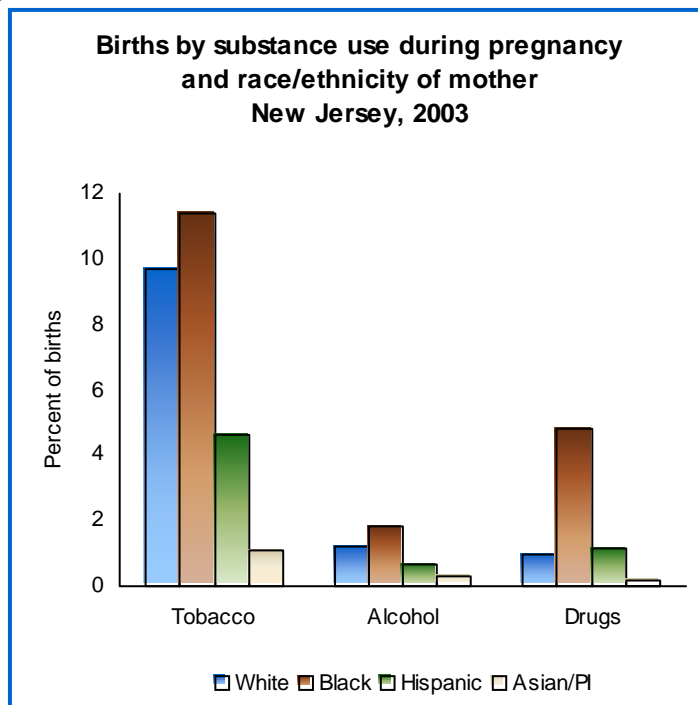
■ In 2003, 4% of all births were twin or higher order, an increase of 52% from 1993.



■ Over three-quarters of mothers received first trimester prenatal care, while 1.1% received no care.

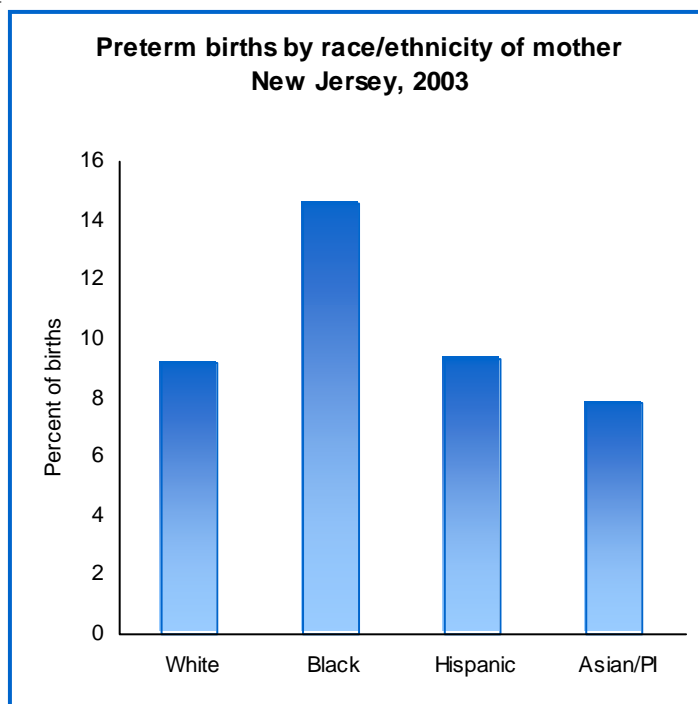
■ Nearly 8% of mothers reported tobacco use during pregnancy.

■ In 2003, only 1.1% of mothers reported alcohol use and 1.5% reported drug use while pregnant.

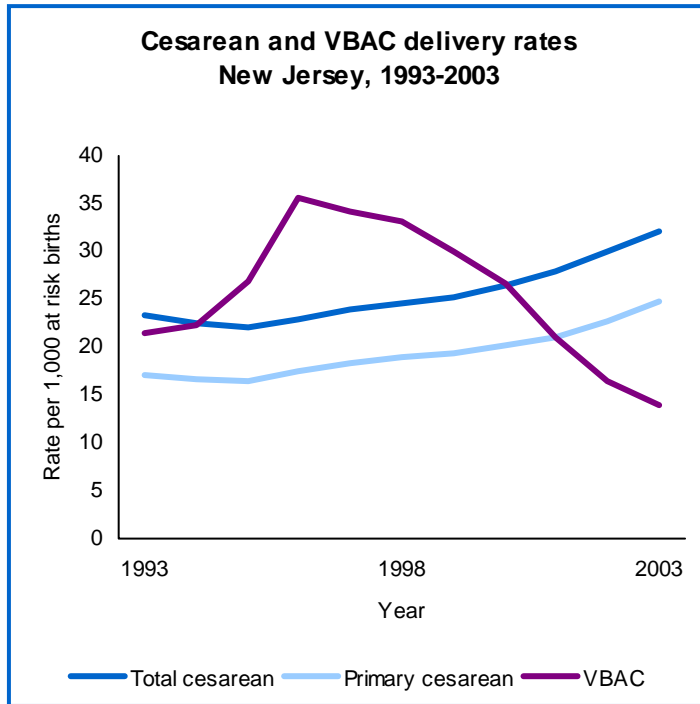


■ Nearly 10% of births were preterm (prior to 37 weeks of gestation).

■ The share of all births which were preterm increased almost 20% from 1993 to 2003.



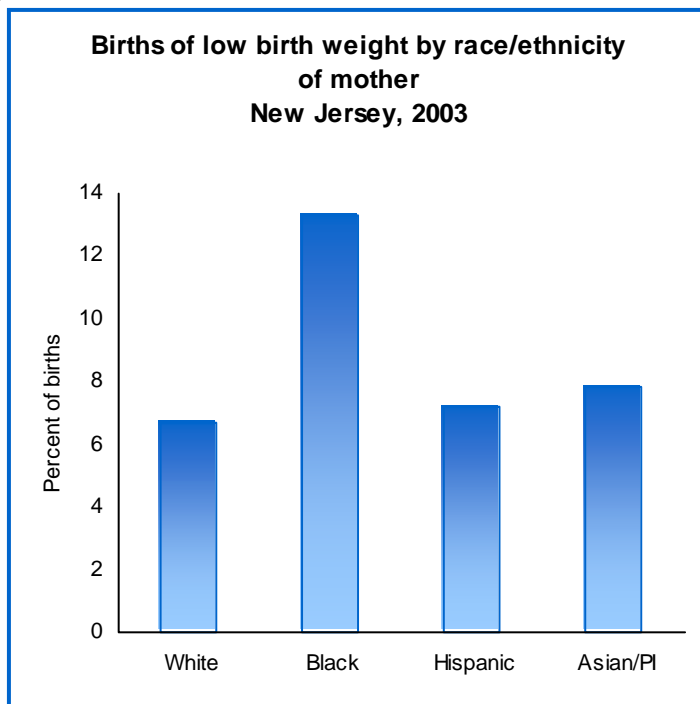




■ Cesareans accounted for 32.1% of deliveries in 2003.

■ The VBAC (vaginal birth after previous cesarean) rate was 13.9 per 100 women with a previous cesarean delivery.

■ The use of episiotomy in vaginal deliveries declined from 41% in 1997 to 28% in 2003.

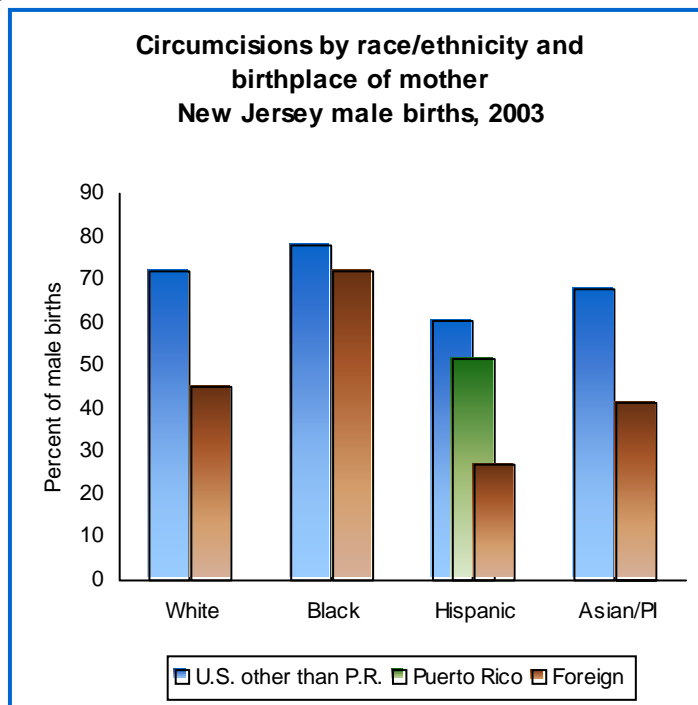


■ Nearly 8% of births were of low birth weight (less than 2,500 grams).

■ The low birth weight rate among Black mothers was 1.7 times higher than the overall rate and twice the rate for Whites.

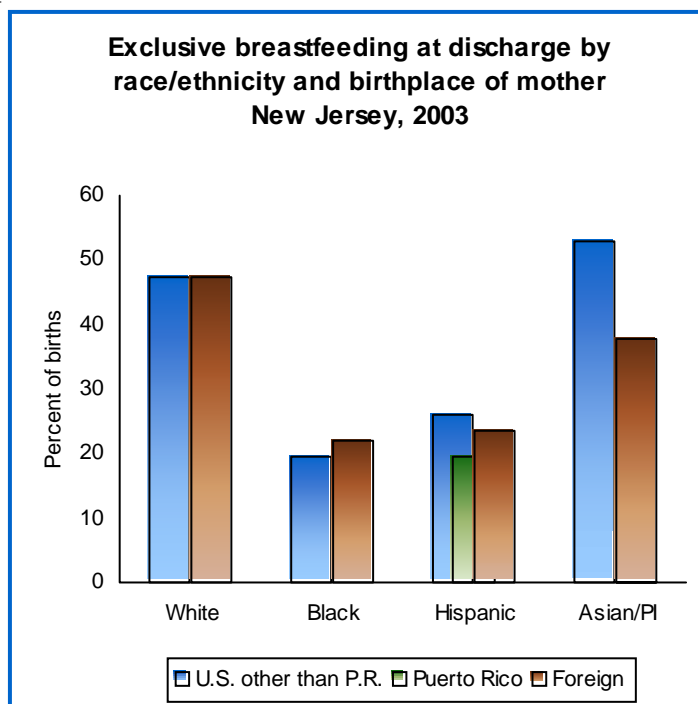
■ Nearly 60% of male newborns were circumcised.

■ In 2003, 72% of native-born mothers had their sons circumcised compared to 52% of mothers born in Puerto Rico and 39% of foreign-born mothers.

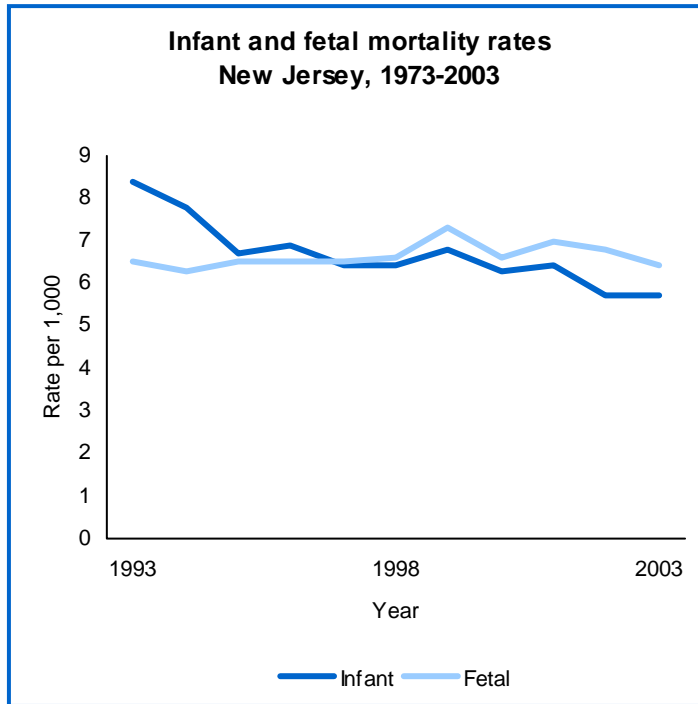


■ In 2003, 35% of newborns were exclusively breastfed, 31% were exclusively formula fed, and 27% were combination fed (both breast and formula).

■ Half of Black mothers formula fed exclusively, 46% of White mothers breastfed exclusively, and 44% of Hispanic and 42% of Asian/Pacific Islander mothers combination fed at discharge.



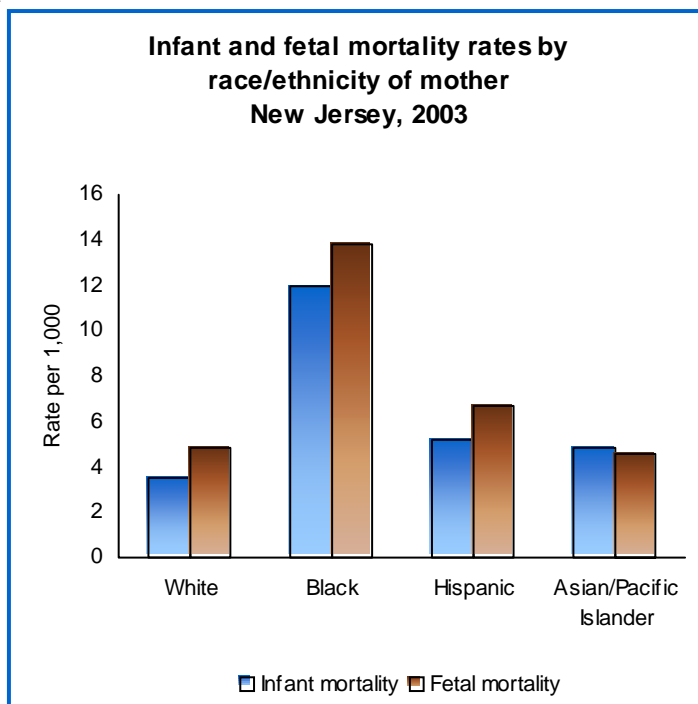
## INFANT AND FETAL DEATHS



■ There were 662 infant deaths and 756 fetal deaths among New Jersey residents in 2003.

■ An infant death is a death within the first year of life.

■ Fetal death, which is also referred to as stillbirth or miscarriage, is defined as death prior to the complete expulsion or extraction from its mother of a product of conception where the fetus shows no signs of life such as breathing or beating of the heart, pulsation of the umbilical cord, or definite movement of voluntary muscles. This report encompasses spontaneous fetal deaths of 20 or more weeks gestation.



■ The infant mortality rate was 5.7 deaths per 1,000 births.

■ The fetal mortality rate was 6.4 per 1,000 births plus fetal deaths.

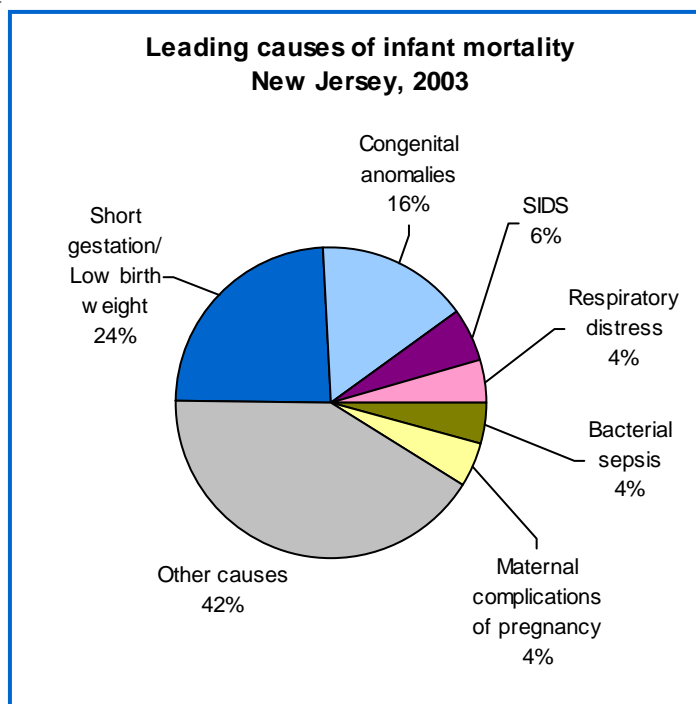
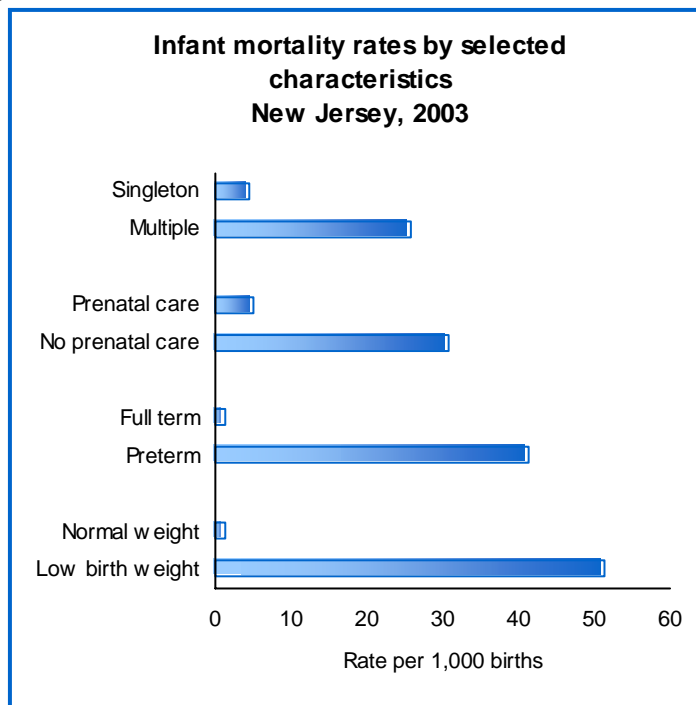
■ Infant and fetal mortality rates among Black mothers remained more than twice the rates for any other race/ethnicity.

■ The infant mortality rate among multiple births was nearly six times higher than that among singletons.

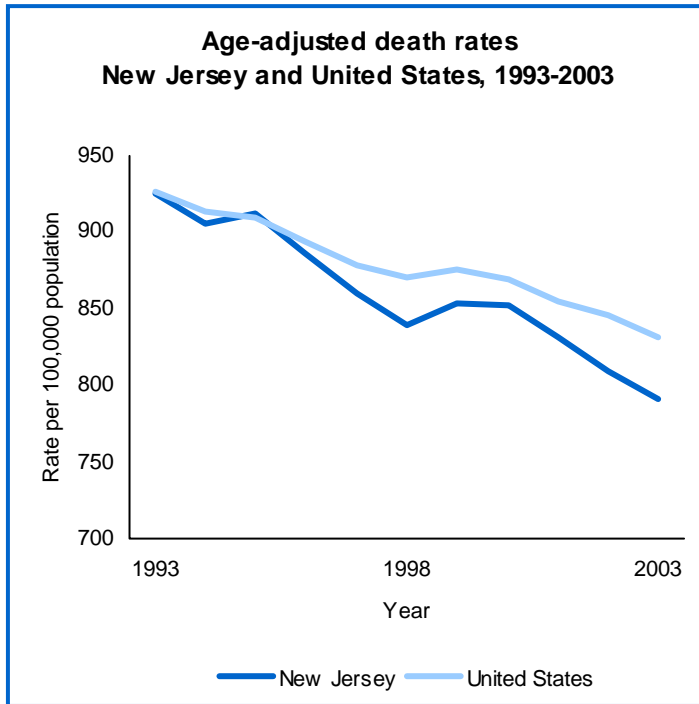
■ The infant mortality rate was 1.4 among full-term births, 8.4 for those born between 32 and 36 weeks gestation, and 195.2 for those born prior to 32 weeks gestation.

■ Short gestation/low birth weight, congenital anomalies, and Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) were the leading causes of infant death.

■ The three leading causes of fetal death were fetal death of unspecified cause; placenta, cord, and membrane complications; and maternal complications of pregnancy.

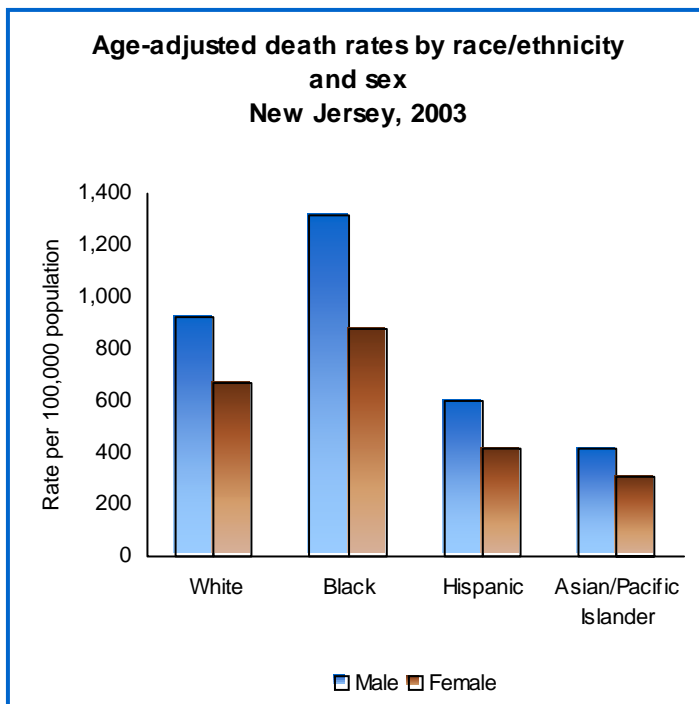


## DEATHS



■ There were 73,410 deaths of New Jersey residents in 2003.

■ The crude death rate was 849.8 per 100,000 population and the age-adjusted death rate was 791.7 per 100,000 population.

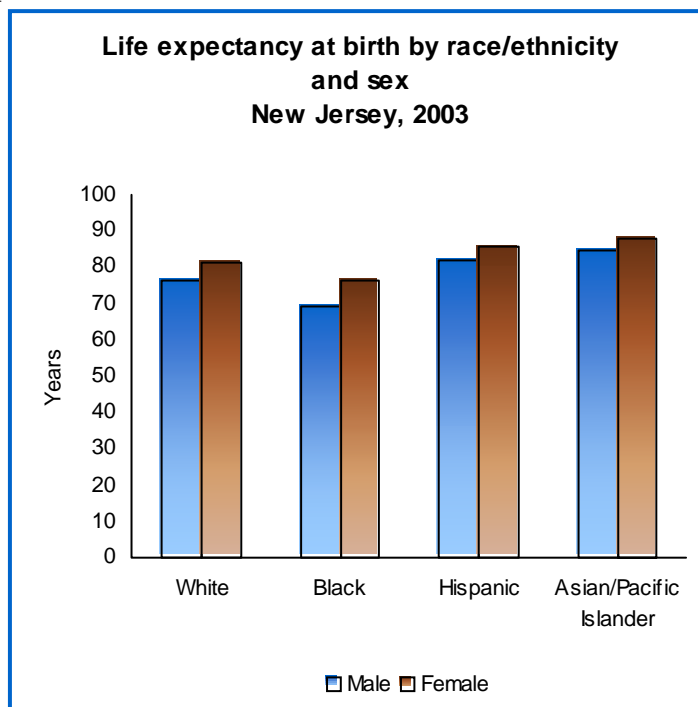


■ The age-adjusted death rate was 943.1 among males and 677.6 among females per 100,000 population.

■ Age-adjusted death rates were 779.9 for Whites, 1,059.3 for Blacks, 501.7 for Hispanics, and 355.2 for Asians and Pacific Islanders per 100,000 population.

■ Life expectancy at birth was 78.5 years and at age 65 was 18.7 years.

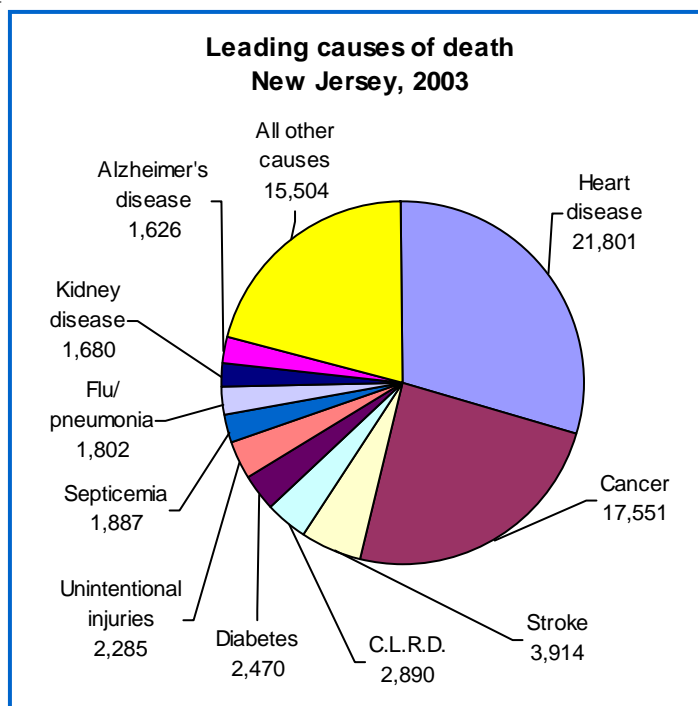
■ The median age at death for all causes was 78 years. For diseases, the median age at death was 79 and for injuries, the median age at death was 45.



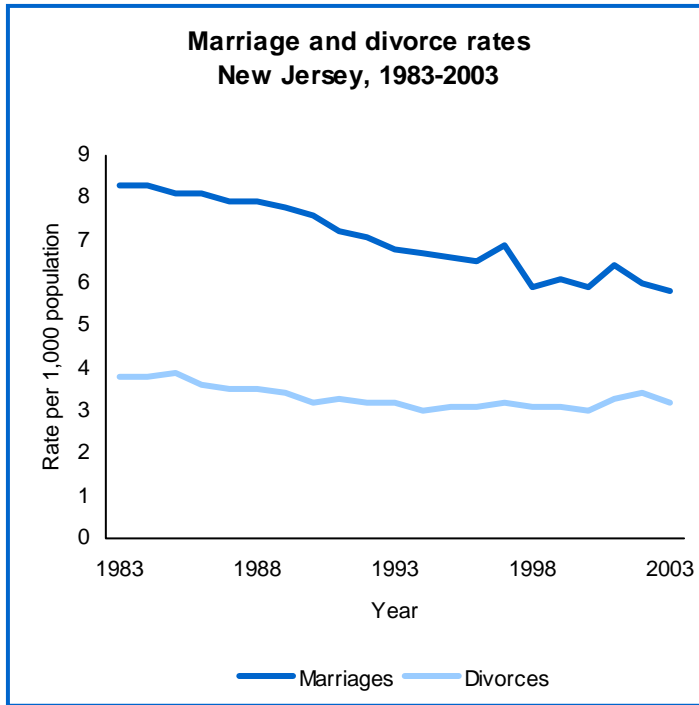
■ The leading causes of death among New Jersey residents in 2003 were heart disease (21,801 deaths), cancer (17,551), stroke (3,914), chronic lower respiratory disease (CLRD) (2,890), diabetes (2,470), unintentional injuries (2,285), septicemia (1,887), influenza and pneumonia (1,802), kidney diseases (1,680), and Alzheimer's disease (1,626).

■ In 2003, cancer surpassed heart disease as the leading cause of death of residents 65-84 years old.

■ The number of homicides increased 21% from 2002.

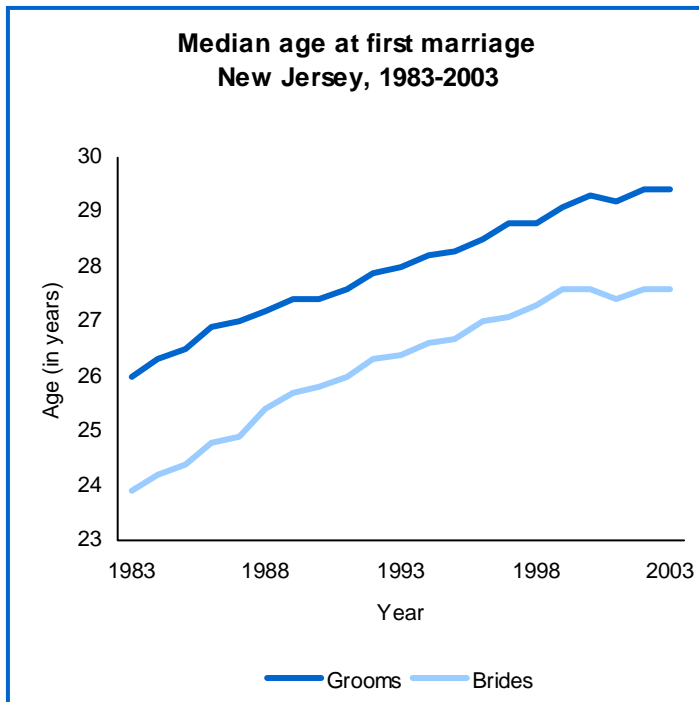


## MARRIAGES AND DIVORCES



■ There were 50,228 marriages and 27,419 divorces in New Jersey in 2003.

■ The marriage rate was 5.8 and the divorce rate was 3.2 per 1,000 population.



■ The median ages of first-time brides and grooms were 27.6 and 29.4 years, respectively.

■ August was the most popular month for marriages in 2003.

■ Per capita, Cape May County was the most popular location for marriages.

## POPULATION

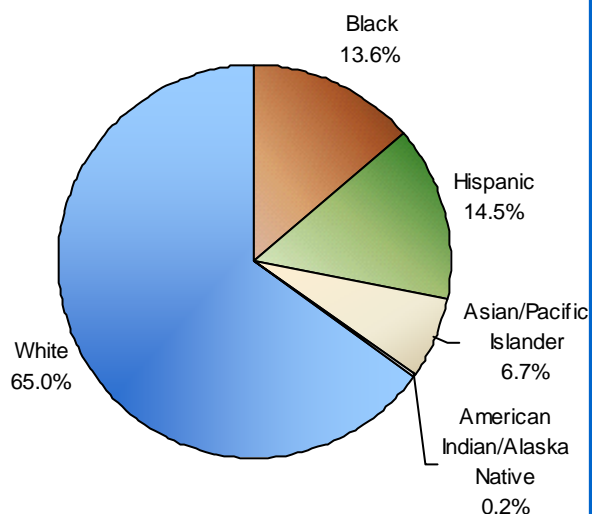
### Population characteristics

#### New Jersey, 2003

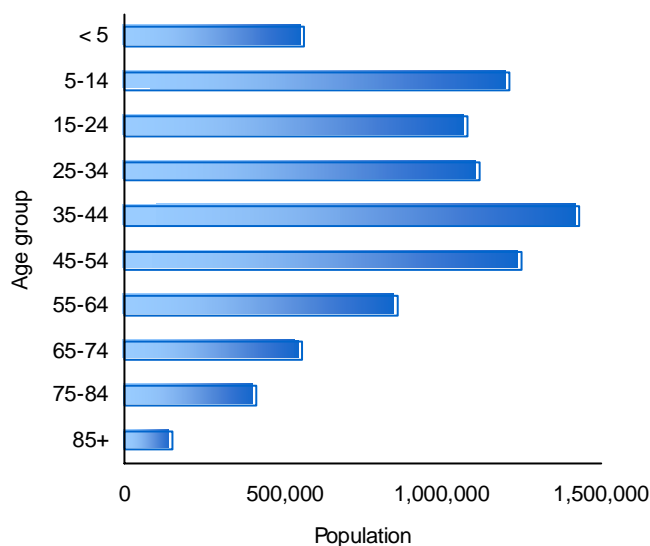
<i>Total</i>	8,638,396
<i>Sex</i>	
Male	4,203,612
Female	4,434,784
<i>Race/ethnicity</i>	
White	5,613,438
Black	1,178,980
Hispanic	1,254,466
Asian/Pacific Islander	575,423
Amer. Indian/Alaska Native	16,089
<i>Age group</i>	
<5	567,576
5-9	588,416
10-14	623,874
15-19	573,100
20-24	504,796
25-29	503,294
30-34	613,166
35-39	696,063
40-44	735,028
45-49	675,561
50-54	573,842
55-59	488,220
60-64	371,618
65-69	288,973
70-74	266,538
75-79	238,950
80-84	176,564
85+	152,817

Source: NCHS bridged-race Vintage 2003 postcensal population estimates

**Population distribution by race/ethnicity  
New Jersey, 2003**



**Age distribution of population  
New Jersey, 2003**





## NOTES

- All data represent New Jersey residents except for marriages and divorces which are based on New Jersey occurrences regardless of where the persons reside.
- Data for White, Black, Asian/Pacific Islander (PI), and American Indian/Alaska Native do not include Hispanics. Hispanic ethnicity includes persons of any race.
- Three birthplace categories are used in this report: native (United States other than Puerto Rico), Puerto Rico, and foreign. Native-born includes those born in the 50 states or Washington, D.C. Foreign-born includes those born anywhere other than the 50 states, D.C., and Puerto Rico.
- All births reported are live births.
- Preterm delivery is prior to 37 weeks of gestation.
- Low birth weight is less than 2,500 grams.
- Only circumcisions performed prior to discharge from the hospital are reported.
- Feeding at discharge refers to the type of feedings (breast, formula, or both) given to the newborn in the 24 hours prior to discharge from the hospital.
- Multiple births are individual births in twin, triplet, quadruplet, or higher order multiple deliveries.
- Fetal mortality rates are computed per 1,000 live births plus fetal deaths of 20 or more weeks gestation.
- Age-adjusted rates are computed per 100,000 population based on the 2000 U.S. standard population.
- Detailed discussions of data sources, data quality, allocation of data by residence or occurrence, race/ethnicity and nativity, definitions, rates, cause of death rankings, and ICD-10 cause of death codes and comparability ratios are given in [nj.gov/health/chs/stats03/technotes.pdf](http://nj.gov/health/chs/stats03/technotes.pdf).

## SOURCES FOR ADDITIONAL DATA

### **Additional New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services Data Sources**

- *AIDS Surveillance*  
Division of AIDS Services  
[nj.gov/health/aids/aidsprv.htm](http://nj.gov/health/aids/aidsprv.htm)  
609-984-5940      [aids@doh.state.nj.us](mailto:aids@doh.state.nj.us)
- *Cancer Surveillance*  
Cancer Epidemiology Services  
[nj.gov/health/ces/index.shtml](http://nj.gov/health/ces/index.shtml)  
609-588-3500      [cancer@doh.state.nj.us](mailto:cancer@doh.state.nj.us)
- *Communicable Disease Morbidity*  
Communicable Disease Service  
[nj.gov/health/cd/](http://nj.gov/health/cd/)  
609-588-7500
- *Diabetes Prevalence*  
Diabetes Prevention and Control Program  
[nj.gov/health/fhs/diabindex.shtml](http://nj.gov/health/fhs/diabindex.shtml)  
609-984-6137
- *HMOs/Managed Care*  
Division of Health Care Quality and Oversight  
[nj.gov/health/hcsa/hcsadmin.htm#OMC](http://nj.gov/health/hcsa/hcsadmin.htm#OMC)  
609-633-0660
- *Hospitalizations*  
Division of Health Care Quality and Oversight  
[nj.gov/health/hcsa/hcsadmin.htm#MCHS](http://nj.gov/health/hcsa/hcsadmin.htm#MCHS)  
609-984-7931
- *Maternal, Child, and Community Health Services*  
Division of Family Health Services  
[nj.gov/health/fhs/chshome.htm](http://nj.gov/health/fhs/chshome.htm)  
609-292-4043
- *Nursing Homes*  
Division of Long Term Care Systems  
[nj.gov/health/ltc/index.shtml](http://nj.gov/health/ltc/index.shtml)  
609-633-9051      [ltc@doh.state.nj.us](mailto:ltc@doh.state.nj.us)
- *Copies of Vital Records (Certificates)*  
Office of Vital Statistics  
[nj.gov/health/vital/vital.shtml](http://nj.gov/health/vital/vital.shtml)  
609-292-4087      [records@doh.state.nj.us](mailto:records@doh.state.nj.us)

### **From the Center for Health Statistics**

- The full version of this report with explanatory text, 216 tables, and 141 graphs and maps is available on the CHS Web site at [nj.gov/health/chs/stats03](http://nj.gov/health/chs/stats03).
- New Jersey State Health Assessment Data (NJSHAD), a Web-based interactive query system that provides users with customized tables and maps of New Jersey birth, death, infant and fetal death, and marriage data, is accessible at [njshad.doh.state.nj.us](http://njshad.doh.state.nj.us).
- *New Jersey Health Statistics* reports for 1993-2003 as well as additional birth, death, induced termination of pregnancy, injury, health insurance coverage, and behavioral risk factor survey data and reports are accessible from the CHS home page: [nj.gov/health/chs](http://nj.gov/health/chs).
- For birth, death, infant death, fetal death, marriage, abortion, injury, health insurance coverage, and behavioral risk (NJBRFS) data not on our Web site or to request additional copies of this report, write to [chs@doh.state.nj.us](mailto:chs@doh.state.nj.us) or call 609-984-6702.

**Additional Sources Outside the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services**

- *National-Level Health Data*  
www.health.gov — a portal to the Web sites of multi-agency health initiatives and activities of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and other Federal departments and agencies
- *Medicaid Data*  
New Jersey Department of Human Services  
nj.gov/humanservices/dmahs  
800-356-1561 or 609-588-2600
- *Mental Health Data*  
New Jersey Department of Human Services  
nj.gov/humanservices/dmhs  
800-382-6717 or 609-777-0700
- *Substance Abuse Incidence and Prevalence*  
New Jersey Department of Human Services  
nj.gov/humanservices/das  
609-292-5760
- *Disabilities Data*  
New Jersey Department of Human Services  
nj.gov/humanservices/dds  
888-285-3036 or 609-292-7800
- *Licensing and Numbers of Doctors, Nurses, and Other Health Professionals*  
New Jersey Department of Law and Public Safety  
nj.gov/lps/ca/medical.htm  
State Board of Medical Examiners (licenses doctors): 609-826-7100  
State Board of Nursing: 973-504-6430
- *Population Estimates and Census Data*  
New Jersey Department of Labor - State Data Center  
nj.gov/labor/lra/  
609-292-0076
- *Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS)*  
New Jersey Department of Education  
nj.gov/njded/students/yrbs/index.html  
609-292-5935

